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Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia



*The*  
**Talon**

The official newsletter for Tarawa families

USS Tarawa (LHA-2)  
"Eagle of the Sea"

**Vol. 1 No. 3 ■ Western Pacific ■ October 2005**



# ***The Talon***

is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *The Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USS Tarawa LHA-1, Public Affairs Office. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, a week before publication (the last Friday of each month). The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all submissions to journalistic standards. All photos are official photos unless otherwise noted. Acceptance of input by the public affairs staff does not guarantee publication.

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Captain Peter D. Murphy.....*Commanding Officer*  
Lieutenant Jennifer Mitchell.....*Public Affairs Officer*

## **Editorial Staff**

JOC(SW/AW) Gabriel Puello.....*Editor*  
PH1 (AW/SW) Marvin Harris.....*Photo Editor*  
JO3 Adam Stapleton & JO3 David Perea.....*Staff Writers*  
LI2(SW/AW) Richard Perez.....*Layout Design*

# ***Tarawa Celebrates Hispanic Heritage***

By JO3 David Perea

## **AT SEA ABOARD USS TARAWA IN THE ARABIAN SEA –**

With the ethnic diversity of the armed forces of the United States, it is common practice to share each other's culture. Onboard Tarawa, the crew gathered en masse in the ship's hanger bay to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month Oct. 6.

The crew was privy to live entertainment of the highest order, as the

Hispanics onboard Tarawa hailing from 15 different nations conducted a series of performances of the arts, such as, dance, song, poetry and historical readings. Among the dances performed by the cast were salsa, ballet folklórico, cumbia and merengue.

While some sailors found expression through song and dance other choose to tell there

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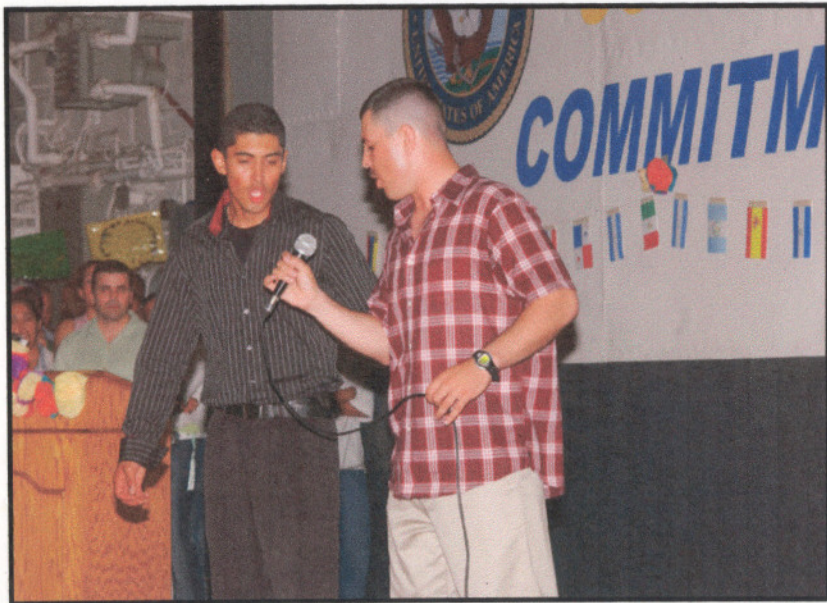


## Celebration

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life stories through poetry or prose. PS2 Maria Zapata-Grant to here epic journey to the United States through poetry under the spotlight of center stage.

Speak on the celebration and the celebrations of other ethnic groups, Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Leo Uzategui says, "It allows other people to open their eyes to the many different Hispanic cultures that there



AN Pablo Flores and ABH2 George Gonzalez wow the crew during the Hispanic Heritage celebration held in the hangar bay. **Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia**



Concluding the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, officers & crew danced the night away to traditional Hispanic music. **Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia**

are in the world. It brings people together, therefore boosting up moral."

Uzategui, whose roots originate from Venezuela, helped donate decorations for the celebration, and on the

following day, helped prepare A Hispanic meal for the crew.

The master-of-ceremonies, Chief Warrant Officer Ramiro

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## Celebration

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*Big T Sailors & Marines hailing from 15 Latin-American nations express their heritage through music and dance. Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia*



*Above: CTO3 Celida Bruss and Sgt. Jose Cerca perform a Mexican folk dance during Hispanic Heritage month -Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia*

Castillo, said at the closing of the ceremony, "We are always together, we can never do it alone...we always need someone," speaking for all the cultures working together in today's Navy.



# 13th MEU Marines destined to aid in Iraqi constitutional elections offload from Tarawa

By JO3 David Perea

AT SEA ABOARD USS TARAWA IN THE ARABIAN SEA – Approximately 1,675 Marines from the 13<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (13<sup>th</sup> MEU), Special Operations Capable (SOC), along with their aircraft and equipment, debarked the USS Tarawa LHA-1, Oct. 11, headed for Iraq, where they will begin their in-country training to serve as a mission reserve force.

With the approaching Ramadan season, the constitutional elections, trial of Saddam Hussein and other dangers the marines may face in Iraq, training and steadfast devotion will be a great source of strength for the striking arm of Expeditionary Strike Group One. Many of the crew of Tarawa considered



*A Beachmaster directs the offload of 13th MEU (SOC), vehicles at the Kuwaiti Naval Base. Photo by PH3 James Spiker.*

the fact that some of the Marines may never come home again and this was a sobering thought. As Tarawa began its five-day off-load of the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC),

from Camp Pendleton, Calif., the ship seemed to hold an air of solemnity as its Marine personnel and equipment departed the ship. “The offload went very smoothly. Things can be very stressful and tense at times during offloads, but our troops handled themselves with a lot of maturity,” said Gunnery Sgt. Warren Hagan of Combat Cargo.

Recently, during the Bright Star 2005, multinational training

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## 13th MEU Offload

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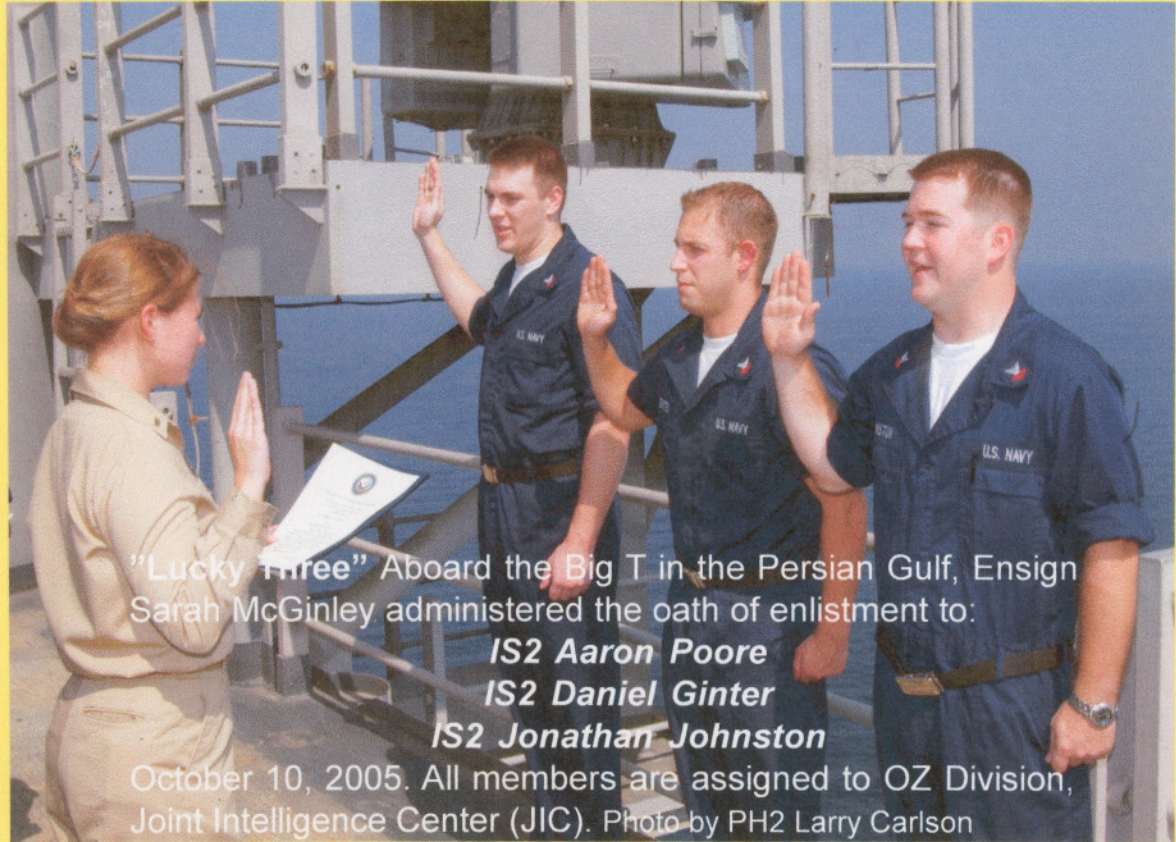
exercise, warriors from the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC), alongside Egyptian, Greek, and Jordanian amphibious landing forces, demonstrated their skills while observed by coalition commanders and honored guests, including the Egyptian Minister of Defense. Combat Cargo, along with Tarawa's deck department were key players in conducting the offload, added Hagan.

### LOOK FOR

Actress Naomi Watts, wearing a USS TARAWA T-Shirt in the upcoming movie, "Stay".



# Sailors Recognized



"Lucky Three" Aboard the Big T in the Persian Gulf, Ensign Sarah McGinley administered the oath of enlistment to:

**IS2 Aaron Poore**

**IS2 Daniel Ginter**

**IS2 Jonathan Johnston**

October 10, 2005. All members are assigned to OZ Division, Joint Intelligence Center (JIC). Photo by PH2 Larry Carlson



# Tarawa

## "Drinks to the foam"

By JO3 David Perea

It was a windy day in early October and Sailors and Marines aboard Tarawa had just completed over 50 consecutive days at sea in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This qualified them for a well deserved "Beer Day."

"Beer day is a tradition in the United States Navy, where after 45 consecutive days out to sea, the Commanding Officer can authorize two beers for each

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ABF3 Eugenio Palacios drinks to the foam during a much needed beer day that was held on the flight deck of the Tarawa on October 6, 2005. **Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia**



## Beer Day

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crewmember,” said LT Jennifer Mitchell, beer day organizer. Tarawa hosted a flight deck picnic in conjunction with an authorized beer day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

For many of the crewmembers, this was their first time being at sea for such an extended period of time. “This is the first time I have ever organized a Beer Day or even participated in one,” said Mitchell. “This wasn’t my first (Beer day), but it’s definitely the best one that I have experienced in quite some time,” said Religious Programs Petty Officer First Class, Jeffery Schadler.”

Sailors were limited to



*Above-Officers & crew enjoy “Beer-Day” on the flight deck.-Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia*

only two beers, but were also treated to pizza in the mess decks and free sodas. “This was very important to the morale of the crew. Everyone had been working so hard, and needed to have a good time,”

added Mitchell. “I think overall Beer Day and the Picnic went very well. I saw a lot of people smiling, laughing and having a good time. That is what this day was all about.”

*Below-“On Three say Cheese” October 6<sup>th</sup>, was Beer Day aboard the Big T. Sailors enjoy the camaraderie during a photo opportunity on the flight deck. - Photo by PH1 Marvin Harris*





## CPR-I changes over command



*Captain Dennis DuBard, congratulates Captain Jonathan Picker as he assumes the helm as Commander, Amphibious Squadron One - Photos by PHAN Kelly Morgan*

*USS Tarawa's Color Guard presents the colors during the Amphibious Squadron One change of command ceremony held in the hangar bay.*



## Big T Bench Press Competition Winners



*Photo by PHAN Shannon Garcia*

**Womens Overall Bench Press Champion**  
**IT1 (SW/SW) Angela Davis-Delgado**  
**Mens Overall Bench Press Champion**  
**ET3 (SW) Dustin Felton**-(overall mens winner, final lift 345lbs)



# Tarawa's Sailors re-enlist enmasse



**At sea aboard the USS Tarawa in the Persian Gulf-** Captain Peter D. Murphy, Commanding Officer, conducted a mass re-enlistment of twenty-seven sailors in the hangar bay, October 9, 2005. Collectively the Sailors received \$414,712.44 in tax-free selective reenlistment bonuses (SRB). -Photos by PH3 James Spiker

BM3 (SW) BRANDON M. BALICKI  
SK2 (SW/AW) ODDETH N. MITCHELL  
QM3 STEVEN A. PICANSO JR.

BM3 MELISSA A. LIGHT  
MM3 (SW/AW) ARVEL C. LOYOLA  
IT2(SW/AW) ANTOINE R. HICKMAN  
EN3 ELTON J. CUMBERBATCH  
EN2 (SW) AARON R. MORLATT  
SK2 SIEGFRIED T. JUCAL  
ET3 (SW) JAMES P. BRENTS  
AC2 (AW) AMANDA L. FROST  
AO3 (AW) CHRISTOPHER D. CHAPMAN  
AO1 (AW) FRANK E. MARANO  
SK3 (SW) HOLLY M. BREMER  
OS2 JOSEPH R. SHARP  
AT1 RAYMOND RIVERA JR.  
SK1(SW/AW) PHILJOSE C. PERRAL  
CS3(SW/AW) ALEX P. GARADO  
IT2 (SW) IZAAK L. COOK  
BM2(SW) FERNANDO J. ALVARADO  
OS2 (SW/AW) LORNE M. RICHARDSON  
AM2 (AW) EDUARDO A. SALAZAR  
BM2 ROBERT M. PERSI  
EM3 KEVIN MOLINA  
ABH2(AW/SW) PHILLIPA. POSADA  
BM3(SW) JAMES W. LANGLEY  
IT2(SW) NINA R. WILLIS





## MM3 (SW) Jeffrey Wells



Service: **U.S.Navy**

Organization: **ENGINEERING**

Duty Title: **Engineer**

Hobbies: **Drawing, Soccer, Computers**

Favorite Duty Station: **USS TARAWA LHA-1 (It's my only one)**

Career Highlights: **When all of my fellow engineers pull together to get a job done. I love it when a plan comes together.**

## ABH1 (AW) Roger Goetz



Service: **U.S. Navy**

Organization: **Air**

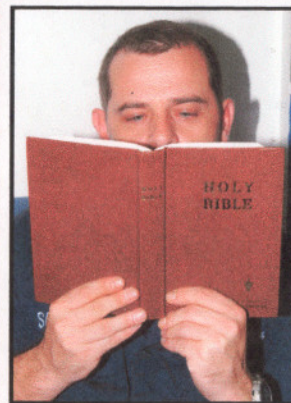
Duty Title: **Crash and Salvage LPO**

Hobbies: **Detroit Red Wings hockey and my '96 Thunderbird**

Favorite Duty Station: **This one. It's my first chance to work on the flight deck.**

Career Highlights: **Making first class.**

## RP1 (SW/AW/) Jeff Schadler



Service: **U.S. Navy**

Organization: **EXEC**

Duty Title: **Religious Ministry Leading Petty Officer**

Hobbies: **Spending time with my wife and family.**

Favorite Duty Station: **This One, because of the "esprit de corps within the community."**

Career Highlights: **Being able to help out Sailors and Marines.**



## COOL PIC

A Landing Signal Enlisted (LSE) prepares a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter for lift-off on the flight deck of the USS Tarawa (LHA-1) after dusk. LSE's, or yellow shirts, are Aviation Boatswains Mates that control and direct aircraft through the take-off and landing process. **-Photo by PH3 James Spiker**

